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JUNE 5.

Mr. CHARLES MORRIS in the Chair.

Sixteen persons present.

A paper entitled "Notes on Hyacinth Roots," by Ida A. Keller, was presented for publication.

*A Collapsing Crater.*—MR. EDW. GOLDSMITH referred to his communication on a volcanic crater of the Mesozoic age near Pottstown, a locality within easy reach by trolley cars. In fact, it is a popular resort because of the peculiar formations occurring there.

Several years ago the crater in question had a perfect cauldron-like contour within; but this has changed in such a way as to indicate its gradual collapse.

The southern and western sides apparently remain intact, but all of the northern and part of the eastern sides show the rocks to have moved toward the centre of the crater.

The huge rocks which have moved inward were, two years ago, in a vertical position, but were cracked straight down to the bottom of the crater, probably from the main mass in situ.

These cracks at that time presented an opening of an inch, more or less, but now, since their movement toward the centre, they have become so large that a man can crawl through the gap. Three masses, standing on edge, and weighing in the aggregate one hundred tons or more, have taken part in the movement.

As the inner contour remains, there is evidence of the actual former existence of a crater, although the clear cauldron-like form is changed. When further movement takes place it will entirely disappear, leaving an irregular pile of rocks grouped in the greatest disorder, upon which the weather will work its smoothing effects just as is now observable in a number of places on the same hill, all of which are, as he had formerly demonstrated, collapsed craters.

That they were craters is clearly evidenced by the existence of the enormous fragments of basaltic columns, by the tachylite which is an opaque obsidian, by the four lava-flows forming the terraces, and by the amygdaloidal rocks. The last crater in that locality is now working toward its own annihilation.